

REMARKS

With the present amendment, claims 3, 7 – 9, 11, and 12 have been canceled. Subject matter somewhat similar to claim 8 has been incorporated into each independent claim.

In response to the claim objections, 2nd has been changed to "second."

In response to the disclosure objection at page 7, line 3, applicants note that a message (e.g., message X) received from the second information processing apparatus is at issue. That message (e.g., message X) is returned to the second information processing apparatus after it has been received. Such action is analogous to receiving a letter in the mail, and then returning it to the letter sender. No correction is therefore believed to be necessary. If further explanation is needed, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Applicants note that the status of the priority application is now abandoned.

All of the claims have been rejected as being unpatentable over applicants' admitted prior art (APAA) in view of SCHIRRIS. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The amended independent claims now clarify that the returned message indicates whether a user has accepted the proposed schedule. Page 21, line 6 – page 22, line 5 describe an example of such a message return. It is submitted that the claim limitations require more than the simple sync message upon which the Examiner has taken Official Notice. For example, because the message indicates whether the user has accepted the proposed schedule, an offer to accept the schedule and a corresponding decision are inherent in the claims. APAA and SHCRISS do not supply

the deficiencies of the Official Notice. As a result of the returned message, a server can update the schedules of both users to coordinate the user's schedules.

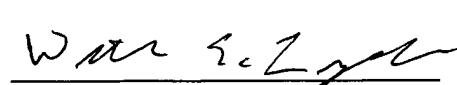
Dependent claims 4 and 10 are also believed to recite further patentable subject matter of the invention and therefore are also believed allowable over the prior art. As such, allowance of the dependent claims is deemed proper for at least the same reasons noted for the independent claims, in addition to reasons related to their own recitations.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejections and an indication of the allowability of all of the claims in the present application.

Any amendments to the claims in this amendment, which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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